

**MINUTES OF FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCILS' TENANTS' &
LEASEHOLDERS' FORUM**

THURSDAY 26TH JULY 2018

6:30PM AT FERNEHAM HALL

In attendance: Liz Bartlett (acting Vice-Chair); Eileen Bailey; Calra Banks; Margaret Chandler; Roy Chandler; Pam Corbin; Sally Eeles; John Elsey; Ann Fells; Sharon Findlay; Yvonne Goddard; Betty Harris; Doreen Mallows; Adrian Martienssen; Jonathan Pearce; Mollie Pearman; Philip Pearman; Mrs Perry; Jenny Rigden-Murphy; Barbara Robertson; Peter Robertson; Gina Shakespeare; Sandy Shearman; Marian Stevens; Maureen Tanner; Phil Taylor; Ken Tomlinson; David Town; Paula Weaver; Linda Wylie.

Officers & Councillors in attendance: Andrea Kingston (Neighbourhood Manager) and Jennie Larkin (Tenant Involvement Officer).

1. **Welcome and introductions** – In the absence of Tracy Thomas, Jennie Larkin took the Chair and Liz Bartlett kindly stood in as Vice Chair for the meeting. Jennie welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Chair's announcements and apologies for absence:** Jennie announced that following the election at the Annual General Meeting in April 2018, Tracy Thomas had received the most votes from the Forum and was therefore elected as Chair of the Tenants' & Leaseholders' Forum.

Apologies: Tony Bury; Mr & Mrs Buxey; Joan Chapman; Mr & Mrs Coad; Marie Condon; Dorothy Dicks; Chris Evans; Debbie & Roy Gibbs; Anne Haddow; Jim Hennessy; Dave Hurden; Mr Johnstone; Myra Lee; Mrs MacFarlane; Mrs McIntosh; Ruth Payne; Colin Ponteaux; Brian Shakespeare; Mrs Weir; Gary Wheeler; Derek Whitear.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Jenny Rigden-Murphy proposed that the minutes be accepted. Eileen Bailey seconded this.

Matters arising – An action list was circulated at the meeting & included the following:

- White lining is due to take place at King George Road, but, the contractor will wait until there are a number of jobs to do and then do them all at once.
- Paula Weaver asked about estate improvements. Andrea Kingston confirmed that there is no longer a list, but, that she could provide information for the last financial year.

- The Forum asked for an update on Universal Credit at a future meeting. Universal Credit affects working age people only and is due to go live in Fareham in November 2018.

4. **Election of Vice-Chair:**

Mollie Pearman was the only member of the Forum to put her name forward for the position of Vice-Chair. In view of this, it was agreed at the Forum that Mollie should be the Vice-Chair of the Tenants' & Leaseholders' Forum.

5. **Update on Tenancy Services:**

Andrea Kingston said that Greg Sharman has now been appointed as the fifth Neighbourhood Officer in the team. Greg was previously one of Fareham's Enforcement Officers. Greg will cover the Bishopsfield Road area; Fort Fareham area and Fairfield Avenue.

As people came into the meeting, they were asked to write one thing that was good about the services provided by the Council and one thing that was not so good. Andrea read out the comments which are attached to these minutes on a separate sheet.

6. **Feedback from meetings with contractors & South Coast Training:**

Feedback from the Housing Panel – Tracy Thomas attended the last meeting which looked at reports on the maintenance service; Affordable Housing and Social Inclusion Services.

Liberty Gas have been operating the gas contract since 12th June 2018. Some tenants have reported problems with their communications with tenants as they have been sending out letters saying that they have visited them when they have not. This has been reported to Kevin Wright who deals with the contractors on behalf of the Council.

Cleaning & caretaking: Sally Eeles & Tracy Thomas attended the last contractor monitoring group meeting. Generally, cleaning seems to have improved. Window cleaning is due to take place in August 2018.

Grounds Maintenance: Tenants are represented at these meetings by Yvonne; Liz Leach and Linda Wylie, but, there has not been a meeting for some time. Jennie to contact Mick Gore.

Editorial Panel: The next newsletter is being prepared and will be sent out in late September 2018. Suggestions for the next newsletter included an article about a typical day for a Neighbourhood Officer.

South Coast Training: The next event will be in October 2018 and the workshops will include housing policy & legislation (including the Hackitt Review following the Grenfell Tower disaster); Tenant Scrutiny; Welfare Reform & food waste and drug and alcohol addiction.

7. **Grounds Maintenance & Fareham in Bloom:**

John Elsey from Trafalgar Court talked to the Forum about the gardens at Trafalgar Court and how they have been transformed.

A few years ago, the residents asked if they could dig up part of a lawn so that they could create a wildflower garden. The Council agreed and since then, the gardens around Trafalgar Court have been transformed into what they are today. This has led to awards for Fareham in Bloom over the last three years (gold award in 2017) and this year, the Court has entered Britain in Bloom.

John said that the gardens have brought a lot of joy to the residents of Trafalgar Court ; neighbours; visitors and the wider community. Those that can help with the garden do and those that can't contribute in other ways. Recently a resident made an ornamental cannon and another made a Trafalgar Court flag. The gardens are shown on Facebook and organisations such as the local Co-op contribute things like bark chippings and older plants and pots. During the first year, the Council donated some left over plants and Trafalgar Court continues to have good support from the Council with this project.

John finished by saying that the garden project has been a great way to encourage community spirit. His tips for good gardening are not to use slug pellets, but, to use sharp grit instead as this then does not harm wildlife.

8. **Lincoln Close:**

Peter Robertson from Lincoln Close spoke about recent events at Lincoln Close and their garden project.

Peter said that on 7th July, Cllr Mrs Bryant (Deputy Mayor) visited Lincoln Close and looked around the Court and gardens.

Recently, residents of Lincoln Close have started work on their gardens and as a result have entered Fareham in Bloom for the first time. A group of residents has also visited Trafalgar Court to see how things have been done there.

9. **Community Involvement in Fareham:**

Hayley Hamlett who is the Voluntary Sector Support & Development Worker with 'One Community,' came along to talk to the Forum about the work of her organisation.

Hayley said that 'One Community' was a charity which helped organisations who needed volunteers and the right sort of volunteers. People volunteer when they retire or are made redundant for example and they then want to provide a service to help others.

'One Community' has a shop opposite Millets in Fareham. People are signposted to the right place if they have problems such as overgrown gardens for example or are suffering from a condition such as diabetes or Parkinson's and they need some support.

Hayley left some information for people to take away.

10. Any other matters:

- Estate inspections can be requested at any time.
- Flanders House – there continue to be parking problems and areas such as the drying and bin areas are not being swept
- Vimy House also has issues with hard surfaces not being swept
- Foster Close – alleyways need sweeping and weeding
- Norgett; Carberry & Foxbury – overgrown shrubs
- Melvin Jones House – there is a resident with 3 cars in an area which is already a problem for parking. The Neighbourhood Officer is aware. There is also a problem with overhanging trees from a neighbouring garden.
- Marne House & Ramillies House – parking continues to be an issue. Also, there is a trampoline outside Marne House and play equipment outside Caen House.

11. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 1:30pm.